

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Method for extending a ~~the~~ casting cycle in two-roll strip casting with in-line rolling of steel strip, which is rolled in ~~at least one rolling unit (1) and in~~ preferably two successive rolling units (1, 2) of a rolling mill with changeable work rolls (5a, 5b, 6a, 6b), wherein the work rolls (5a, 5b; 6a, 6b) that are to be changed are changed above and below the steel strip (23) by separating the work rolls to form a gap between the work rolls and the steel strip and are laterally extracting the work rolls ~~extracted~~ from the rolling unit (1, 2) during casting.

2. (Currently amended) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein, in the case of two successive rolling units (1, 2), during a ~~the~~ roll change of rolling unit (2), a greater strip thickness is produced with the work rolls (5a, 5b) of the other rolling unit (1) that is still in use than was produced before the roll change.

3. (Currently amended) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein, in the case of two successive rolling units (1, 2) during a ~~the~~ roll change of rolling unit (2), the same strip thickness is temporarily produced without transition with the work rolls (5a, 5b) of the rolling unit (1) that is still in use as before the roll change, in which case the work rolls (5a, 5b) then take on the total reduction rate of the two rolling units (1, 2).

4. (Currently amended) Method in accordance with claim 3, wherein a ~~the~~ given strip thickness that is being run is controlled for the time being with the work rolls (5a, 5b) of the rolling unit (1) that is still in use, before the work rolls (6a, 6b) that are to be changed are released.

5. (Currently amended) Method in accordance with claim 3, wherein during the roll change, ~~the~~ casting process parameters that critically affect the casting thickness, such as casting rate and/or bath level and/or heat dissipation and/or temperature of a ~~the~~ liquid steel supply, are varied in order to support the rolling unit (1) that is still in use.

6. (Currently amended) Installation for carrying out the method in accordance with claim 1, whose ~~at least one rolling unit (1) and preferably~~ two successive rolling units (1, 2) are provided with work rolls (5a, 5b, 6a, 6b) that are ~~can be~~ changed above and below the steel strip (23), wherein the work rolls (5a, 5b; 6a, 6b) are ~~can be~~ lifted from the steel strip (23) by lifting devices (17) and are ~~can be~~ laterally extracted.

7. (Currently amended) Installation in accordance with claim 6, wherein the work rolls (5a, 5b; 6a, 6b) are ~~can be~~ lifted by the lifting devices (17) and ~~that~~ the rolling mill is provided with lifting rolls (24, 25) for the steel strip (23) before and after the work rolls.

8. (Currently amended) Installation in accordance with claim 7, wherein the lifting rolls (24, 25) are mounted on ~~the~~ free ends of pivoted levers (26, 27).

9. (Currently amended) Installation in accordance with claim 7, wherein the upper work roll (5a, 6a) are ~~can be~~ lifted together with its backup roll (7a, 8a).

10. (Currently amended) Installation in accordance with claim 6, wherein the work rolls (5a, 5b; 6a, 6b) are ~~can be~~ supported on guides (13, 14, 15, 16) that ~~can~~ move with them and/or that are ~~can be~~ swung in and out.

11. (Currently amended) Installation in accordance with claim 6, wherein the work rolls (5a, 5b; 6a, 6b) are ~~can be~~ changed separately or in pairs.

12. (Currently amended) Installation in accordance with claim 11, wherein the work rolls (5a, 5b; 6a, 6b), which are ~~can be~~ changed in pairs, are provided with a common extraction device.

13. (Currently amended) Installation in accordance with claim 6 ~~4~~, wherein the upper work roll (5a, 6a) is ~~can be~~ lifted together with the upper backup roll (7a, 8a) and/or the lower work roll (5b, 6b) is ~~can be~~ lowered together with the lower backup roll (7b, 8b).